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THE LAST EOUaON-MACQUAKTS —THE FEENCH ACADEMY—A VISIT TO LONDON 1888-1893

"Le ReVe " — How Zola rid himself of Ms obesity — "
Germinal" as a play
— "La Bete Humaine" — Zola longs to stagger the world —
He becomes
a candidate for the Academy — Why he failed to secure
election — His
novels "L'Argent" and "La Debacle" — Ernest Vizetelly's
position —
He resolves to revive Zola in England — Translation of "La
Debacle " —
Its reception in England — English opinion and Zola — French
attacks on.
Mm—He visits Genoa—He writes " Le Docteur Pascal" —
Conclusion of
the Kougon-Macquart series — A few figures respecting it —
Zola is made
an Officer of the Legion of Honour — A reception in the Bois de
Boulogne
— An address to the Paris students — Zola and the
Societ6 des Gens de
Lettres — He is invited to London by the Institute of
Journalists — He
hesitates to accept the invitation — Correspondence with
Vizetelly — His
reception in London — His paper on " Anonymity in
Journalism " — At
the Crystal Palace, the Imperial Institute, and the
Guildhall — The
Authors' Club dinner — Visits to Westminster Abbey, the
National Gal-
lery, and the British Museum — Some general impressions of
London —
The English visit and the French Academy.

INF 1888, while Zola was being attacked so
virulently in
England he produced his story "Le Ee*ve,"
which some
people regarded as indicating not only a new
departure on
his part but an endeavour to conciliate his
enemies. In the
first place, however, with regard to literary style,
" Le Be"ve "
was merely a return to the idyllic manner of "
Les Contes &
Ninon," and " La Faute de TAbbe* Mouret";
and secondly
it has been shown¹ that the idea of this work
occurred to
the novelist even before he had finished " La
Terre," and that

he started on it immediately his book on the
peasantry
was completed. It seems certain, therefore, that
" Le Kšve "

¹ Sherard, Z. c., p. 228.